



## HERE WE COME!

Prepare a worship center with a variety of interesting things found in nature. Include some that are more unusual. Let the children tell you about their favorite things God made. Talk about the purpose for each thing. Some are to look at and enjoy, some are to be used for food, some provide clothing or decorations, and some can be combined with others to make totally new things. God is generous in giving us such an abundance. How can we show God we appreciate it?

## SCRIPTURE WORDS AND WORSHIP

There are three scripture verses, taken from three different books. Print the words on separate cards, and place each one in the book where it is found. Have the children locate the books in three different places in the room. Talk about the three different groups of people who received these scriptures. How are they alike? What does it mean to accept something? What does a cheerful giver look like?

## ACCEPT GOD'S GENEROSITY

God has filled the earth with wonderful gifts.

## SCRIPTURE WORDS

Give thanks in all things.  
—Mosiah 11:149  
Book of Mormon RAV

Say thank you to the Lord.  
—Psalm 107:1 NRSV adapted

God loves a cheerful giver.  
—2 Corinthians 9:7 NRSV

## STORY TALKING

Give each child several coins. Arrange containers in a worship setting that represent various needs such as food, lights and heat, new toys for the nursery, art supplies for the classroom, money for bandages, missionary travel, or disaster relief. Talk about each of the containers briefly. Money given to these funds goes to provide help, materials, or other ministry. Let the children decide how to disperse their money. Ask about their choices.

Introduce an offering envelope and talk about the connection between the containers and the words on the envelope. In what ways can children respond generously? Include not only money, but canned goods, clothing, and other items that can be collected and delivered to those who need it.

**The Church Is the Body of Jesus**

The church is the bo - dy of Je - sus, His ears, eyes, voice, fin - gers, and  
toes. If we do our part with love in our heart, The  
bod-y will speak, sing, and serve the Lord. Go forth in the world as he goes.

(Words and music by Marcia Legg © 1985 Marcia Legg)

## MOVING MUSIC

- “The Church Is the Body of Jesus”
- “Stewardship Is” (page 55)

## SENSE-ATIONS

Give each child a copy of the picture of Jesus picking grapes (page 14). Children can draw themselves into the picture.

As they work, let them tell about their favorite time of day.

- What time do they eat?
- What time do they sleep?
- What time do they play?
- What time do they pray?
- What time do they go to church?

## UP AND AT 'EM

Cut out pictures of grapes from a seed catalog. Hang the grapes in places around the room. Let the children gather the grapes and put them in a basket. Pay the children with round crackers. Provide drinks.

## THERE WE GO

Send each child home with their picture and a sample offering envelope. Encourage them to share what they learned with their family.

## LIVE AND LEARN

The scripture story is adapted from Matthew 20:1–16 NRSV. Have a digital alarm clock available. As the times are given in the story, let the children change the reading on the clock to match. Use play money when the salary is mentioned.

- Once there was a landowner who had a grape vineyard. It was huge. The landowner was proud of his vineyard.
- One morning at six o'clock (show the time on the clock) he went out to see how things were coming along. He saw the grapes hanging in bunches, heavy on the vines, round and purple and sweet. "It's time," he said. "It's time to pick the grapes and take them to the market."
- "Who will help me pick my grapes?" asked the landowner as he walked along the street. "Come with me and I will pay you a day's wages." (Hold up play money.)
- The workers who were willing followed the landowner to his vineyard. At 7:00 (show time on a clock) they started work.
- The men worked and worked, but there were lots of grapes to pick. At 9:00 (show time) the landowner went back out into the street. "Who will help me pick my grapes? Come to my vineyard and I will pay you whatever is right at the end of the day."
- When the landowner looked at the vineyard, there was still room for more helpers. He went back to the street at noon (show time).
- He went again at 3:00 and brought some workers back.
- He went again at 5:00 and brought some workers back.
- When evening came, it was time to pay the workers. Some had been there all day, starting at 7:00 in the morning. They had worked hard for twelve hours.
- Some had worked for eight hours. Some had worked for six hours. Some had worked for four hours. Some had worked for two hours.
- "What shall I pay them?" the manager asked the owner.
- "Pay them a day's wages."
- "All of them? No matter how long they worked?"
- "All of them, no matter how long they worked," the owner answered.
- One of the workers who came early in the day saw what was happening. "That's not fair. I worked twelve hours and you paid me this much money. (Show money.) That man came at 5:00 and only worked two hours, and you paid him the same amount of money you paid me." (Show equal amount.)
- "Friend," said the land owner, "I am doing you no wrong. Didn't you agree to work for a day's pay?"
- The man nodded his head. "But..." he began.
- The owner stopped him. "It's my vineyard and my money and my choice. I can choose to do whatever I want with what belongs to me. Are you upset because I choose to be generous?"
- The man shook his head and walked away. He was still shaking his head as he muttered to himself. "I don't get it. Why would he do that? I just don't understand."

Ask the children, "Why do you think he did what he did?" Talk about a generous response, how it makes you feel, and how it affects others.

Color yourself  
in the picture  
with Jesus.

